

## METHOD FOR WASHING AND/OR TREATING THE HAIR OF A PERSON

The present invention relates to a method for washing and/or treating the hair of a person.

Conventional hairdresser washbasins are normally provided with a U-shaped recess in the front edge of the washbasin for the neck of a customer. During washing or other treatment of the hair of the person, he/she lies with the rear side of his or her neck in the recess such that the hair falls into the washbasin. In this way the hairdresser can for instance wash the hair in simple and efficient manner.

The skin of the neck of the person for treating does however generally come into direct contact here with the washbasin. Since various people are successively attended to and the washbasins, and in particular the edge, are not always cleaned carefully after use, there is the danger of pathogens causing skin disorders for instance being transmitted from the one person to another.

The object of the present invention is to obviate the above stated drawback.

To this end the invention provides a method for washing and/or treating the hair of a person, comprising of providing a washbasin with an edge provided with a substantially U-shaped recess for the neck of the person, and arranging protecting means in the U-shaped recess prior to washing and/or treating of the hair in order to prevent direct contact between the washbasin and the person.

Using the method according to the invention the hair of a person can be washed and/or otherwise treated in simple and hygienic manner.

The present invention further relates to a washbasin protective sleeve for use in the above stated

method, comprising at least two layers of a flexible material which are partially connected to each other along the periphery and provided with a substantially U-shaped recess. Such a protective sleeve can be readily arranged on the conventional washbasins used in most hairdressing salons, wherein the U-shaped recess of the washbasin and that of the protective sleeve coincide.

It will be appreciated that the protective sleeve can be made of any suitable material. In a particular embodiment however, the protective sleeve is made of a disposable material. In this way a new protective sleeve can be arranged for each person, so that proper hygiene is ensured.

In order to enhance the comfort of the recumbent person during the treatment, particularly in the case of prolonged treatments, the protective sleeve is preferably further provided with means for supporting the neck of the person. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the support means comprise a gelatinous substance which is arranged along the U-shaped recess of the protective sleeve. The support means can however also be arranged along the U-shaped recess of the washbasin, in which case the support means do not have to be removed after every use, because the protective sleeve is arranged over the support means.

In a further preferred embodiment of the protective sleeve according to the invention, at least one of the layers is provided with an extension piece. By providing the upper layer with an extension piece which lies in the washbasin during washing and/or treatment of the hair, it is possible to prevent drops of water or other liquids running into the neck of the person when he/she sits upright again after washing.

It will be appreciated that the protective sleeve can be provided in diverse dimensions, depending on the

dimensions and design of the hairdresser washbasin being used. The protective sleeve is preferably designed such that the U-shaped recess of the washbasin and the protective sleeve coincide.

5 The invention further relates to an assembly for washing and/or treating the hair of a person, comprising a washbasin with an edge which is provided with a substantially U-shaped recess for the neck of the person, and a washbasin protective sleeve as described 10 above.

The invention will be further elucidated with reference to the accompanying figures, in which

Figure 1 shows a schematic view of the washbasin protective sleeve according to the invention; and

15 Figure 2 shows a perspective view of an assembly according to the invention.

As shown in Fig. 1, the washbasin protective sleeve 1 preferably comprises two layers 2,3 of a flexible material, which are partially connected to each other 20 along periphery 4 and provided with a substantially U-shaped recess 5. The protective sleeve is preferably made from a disposable material. As shown, the upper layer preferably comprises an extension piece 6. When the protective sleeve is used, this extension piece is 25 laid in the washbasin during washing and/or treating of the hair in order to prevent drops of water or other liquids running into the neck of the person when he/she sits upright again after washing.

As shown in Fig. 2, the washbasin protective sleeve 30 1 is very suitable for use in an assembly for washing and/or treating the hair of a person, comprising a washbasin 8 with an edge provided with a substantially U-shaped recess 7 for the neck of the person, and a washbasin protective sleeve 1 as described above.